

JUN 16 1966

The ANSGAR LUTHERAN

Those Who Talk with God



How lovely are the faces
Of those who talk with God.
Lit with an inner sureness
Of the path their feet have trod.
Keen are the hands and feet—ah
yes!—
Of those who wait his will;
And clear as crystal mirrors
Are the hearts his love can fill.

—Author Unknown

Muchstone of Doctrine!

was long ago. The New Zealanders had accepted Christianity. But then came the Roman Catholic priests bringing the worship of the Virgin Mary, prayers to the saints, the use of images, and the mass and the confessional. They declared the authority of the Church of Rome and the supremacy of the Pope.

all of this the natives, who had read their Bibles, answered, "It cannot be true, because it is not in the Bible."

is is the thing to do with any suspected doctrine: lay the teachings down by the side of God's Word. "To the law and to the testimony: If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

Love Triumphant

By G. Harmon Jones

Let me be loving in a world of hate,
For only gentleness can make me great;
And love alone will choose "the better part,"
And add enrichment to a palsied heart.

Where hate abounds, let Love assume the role
Of Saviour to a sad and sinking soul,
And fashion feelings that will proudly prove
The lasting lure of everlasting love.

Little Things

In going through this wicked world of care and grief and strife, you'll find it's the little things that mean the most in life. A friendly handshake now and then, a cheerful word and smile; a friendly whack upon the back, is what makes life worth while.

A loving squeeze upon the arm, an unexpected kiss, won't do a husband any harm, but fill his heart with bliss. A kindly word when things go wrong, his worry to beguile. You see, it's just the little things that make life worth while.

A little bit of kindness when you're feeling rather blue; a word of praise will cheer you, and give you courage, too. Gold can buy fine raiment, and keep you right in style, but it's just the little things that make your life worth while.

—Cleo P. Giannini.

Prayer in the Assembly

When the federal Constitution Convention opened its session in Philadelphia, June 28, 1787, Benjamin Franklin arose and said: "Mr. President, in the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for divine protection. Our prayers were heard and answered. I have lived long sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of the truth that God governs in the affairs of men. I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers, imploring the assistance of heaven and blessings upon our deliberations be held in this assembly every morning." The motion was carried.

For Both of Us

A little black boy asked a missionary in Africa, "Was Jesus a black man?"

"No, my boy, he was not," answered the missionary. The boy turned away disappointed, saying, "The white people have all the good things."

Then, reflecting that the hot Syrian sun would have darkened the face of the Master, the missionary said, "I think his color would be between yours and mine."

And the boy clapped his hands and shouted, "Then he belongs to both of us."

—The Prairie Overcomer.

News and Notes

REPORT ON FORWARD WITH CHRIST

District	No. of Cong.	Conf. Memb.	No. Cong. reporting some commitments to date.	No. Cong. who have made no Commitment to date, some postponing, some have not reported at all.
Atlantic	10	1578	6 (60%)	4
Illinois	12	1955	7 (58%)	5
Wisconsin	23	6995	13 (56%)	10
Minnesota	21	4457	10 (47%)	11
Iowa	38	8672	21 (55%)	17
N. Dak.-Mont.	12	1752	10 (83%)	2
Nebraska	36	4010	23 (66%)	13
Pacific	20	4459	10 (50%)	10
W. Canada	12	1091	6 (50%)	6
TOTALS	184	35969	106 (57%)	78

A total of 147,617.53 has been pledged or paid as of July 12, 1955.
31 congregations have said they plan to do something about the F.W.C. later.
47 congregations have not reported anything as to their plans.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE F.W.C. MOVEMENT

By K. M. Matthiesen

The Forward with Christ movement as it was inaugurated on May 15th is a great advance as compared with the former method of raising funds needed in the larger kingdom work of Synod. Former methods gave the information relative to the specific needs, then set up congregational and district quotas and used the "big stick" on the laggard congregations by publishing the "payments" and sending out statements. Forward with Christ, on the other hand, advocated arousing enthusiasm and love in the hearts of our people by providing material for evangelism and stewardship training in the congregation with strong emphasis on giving to God in place of giving to the church—this giving to be as a witness born of love and gratitude for the gifts of God—both spiritual and physical. No pressure has been exerted upon districts and congregations, no quotas

set, no figures published. If an individual or a congregation decides that the Church in God's Name is asking what they do not wish to do there will be no "big stick" used on them.

As the reports have come in, however, I have been tempted to doubt at times. This Forward step in our Synod may have been too great an advance, for there may be those congregations who are willing to hide behind the anonymity of the unpublished report. I do pray that this may not be true.

Many pastors and laymen have joyfully commented on the benefits accrued to their congregation by the use of the Forward with Christ plan and materials as set up by the National Forward with Christ Committee.

If for some reason (most likely a valid one) you have decided to discard the plan and use another method,

please give it one more consideration. The experience of many users of the Forward with Christ plan is an endorsement of its value. All material still available and will be sent prepaid upon placement of your order. Our National Forward with Christ Committee urges every congregation to place an order for the material and to distribute it to its members. I urge you to use the Forward with Christ plan for evangelism and stewardship even though it was not possible for you to do so on May 15. Your congregation can still benefit greatly by using the plan this fall.

AN 8-PAGE ISSUE

This is the first of three 8-page issues that we publish every summer. The 14th and the 29th of August issues will also be 8 pages. We do this in order to help the workers who have summer vacations. We also feel that our readers go on vacations, so they will not object. Then we are not sorry that these issues help us to keep the expenses down. We almost broke even last year, and we hope we may do so this year.

Ordinations. The Candidates for ordination have now been ordained, most of them had the ordination festivities in their home congregations. John Beck was ordained July 3 at Fremont, Nebr.; Lloyd W. Lorensen July 6, Brush, Colo.; Anton Kirkegaard July 7, at Denver, Colo.; Robert G. Nelson July 10, at Racine, Wis.; Robert Thoms, July 17, at Cedar Falls, Iowa and Ervin W. Dohmeier July 17, Mitchell, Iowa. Pastor Dohmeier called to Minden, Nebr.

Eugene, Oregon, Emmaus Lutheran H. A. Svendsen, Pastor. While enroute to attend the National Convention the United Evangelical Luth. Church at Lynwood, Calif., Pastor and Mrs. Reynold Tange and family of Hussey, Alberta, Canada, visited at the home of Mrs. Tange's parents, Pastor and Mrs. H. A. Svendsen, Eugene, Or. While visiting here in Eugene, Pastor Tange was the guest pastor at Emmaus.

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Much of our news is received from Religious News Service, and the News Bureau of the National Lutheran Council.

JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor
321 E. 8th Street
Spencer, Iowa

THE LYNWOOD CONVENTION

By B. J. Engskov

The convention for some of us began with a procession visiting friends and convention guests who stopped on the way. At least a couple of dozen people paused here at the church in Fresno to look over our plant, and some worshipped with us. Among the pastors and their families who were here could be mentioned, Irving Peter-son, H. M. Hansens, Cornelius Hansens, N. B. Hansens, Per Andersen, and James Peterson who preached here on 3.

Thus we were already in a festive spirit when we arrived in Lynwood, and that festive and joyful mood increased and lasted every day. For me it was the most relaxed and heart-hearted convention I have ever attended. From the beginning, our surroundings contributed much to the feeling, our congenial host pastor and his wife and their hospitable congregation had so thoughtfully prepared for all our needs that an atmosphere of warmth and welcome immediately surrounded us. The beautiful new sanctuary was an inspiring meeting place, and the many other impressive facilities at our disposal helped to set the tone and make us comfortable. There was a snack-bar convenient and open, coffee breaks were provided, transportation available night and day, a patio and lawn for lounging outside—even a traffic officer on duty to stop vehicle traffic for pedestrians on the busy street between buildings.

But like any memorable gathering, it was the personalities that spiced the whole. There were ingredients like the sparkling charm of a Videbeck, sincerity of Jersild, festivity of Girtz, friendliness of Justesen, smoothness of the chairman, fatherliness of E. R. Andersen plus a sprinkling of the numerous other delightful and salty personalities that each of us enjoyed. Maybe we admit that we will remember this convention not so much for what was done as for how it was done.

Anyway, underneath what you may call a superficial picture of the convention, we sensed that it was undergirded by a basic Christian understanding and mutual confidence. Essential as it is to depend on one another in fast and heavy traffic, so in the numerous decisions of such a con-

vention, there must be trust and willingness to understand and move together in a concerted and orderly way. We felt that individual and selfish moves were curbed to enable the harmonious spirit to keep the right-of-way.

Moreover, a deeply spiritual emphasis prevailed in all the devotional meetings. Some of the meetings have been "covered" in other reports, but I do want to mention the marks left on the convention by our foreign missionaries. Rev. Morck addressed the convention for WMS Friday evening and presented a picture of the work in South America. The WMS banquet held Saturday evening had the Rev. E. I. Engskov of Sudan as the speaker. Your reporter had the privilege for once to be along where men are otherwise barred, and can report first hand that the WMS banquet was both a delightful affair—well balanced meal and program—also a moving and uplifting experience. Mrs. Samuel Hansen as toastmistress wove the different parts of the program together in a charming manner.—In remembering the words of these two missionaries, one feels that where Africa used to be the "Dark Continent," that name could more truly be applied to South America at the present time.

The closing session found us united in a serious study, guided by the message of Dr. C. C. Madsen. The serious note sounded was that while our theme was "Strong in the Lord," we were forced to admit that in many instances and for many of us the opposing theme was more nearly true—that we were NOT strong in the Lord. With all our marvelous opportunities, our abundances, our privileges, we often give in to the popular and superficial seeking of today: flocking to psychiatrists for peace of mind—seeking only comfort for oneself, complacently closing one's eyes to the needs of lost souls around us. A spirit of rebellion against God possesses many today. Again was emphasized the very purpose for which we live: to glorify God and serve Him and our fellow men. With this challenge ringing in our ears, Dr. Jersild declared convention closed in the name of the triune God. Again thanks to our hosts, St. Paul's of Lynwood, and to friends far and near for the experiences of these days assembled.

Convention Days

By Christian Justesen

A day in such serene enjoyment spent were worth an age of splendid discontent."

The 59th annual convention was truly an enjoyment. It was well organized by the local church. It gave room for much visitation. There were no vital problems which caused arguing and heated debates. Our editor's prediction was correct. The only thing to cause any heat is the pension fund, and we believe we are getting that solved." As far as many of us are concerned, the fog has not disappeared, but it is high and perhaps the sun will shine through before too long. A big budget was voted. No questions asked. We are getting used to receiving reports and accepting same. We trust our boards, our leaders. We know they think things through before we accept and pass. Maybe it's good. It does expedite the decision of the convention. However, it does happen that we have failed to think things through until after the convention. Then when we read of convention decisions, we regret. If we have not made our position clear at convention and decisions do not please us after the convention is over, it should not be too vocal about it. We missed our chance. The 59th was not a small convention. The Pacific Dis-

trict is our 3rd largest District. Perhaps the convention was smaller when delegates and pastors were counted, but in attendance at sessions, I believe we compared favorably with some conventions in the midwest. On Sunday, in spite of no ordination service, we had three services at St. Paul's in Lynwood and services at other churches in the area with speakers from the convention. Many convention guests visited these churches. So count up the Sunday attendance, we will find a good round total of worshippers.

A few bugle blasts were sounded as to the moving of our seminary and the establishing of a Lutheran college in the southwest. A few sat up and took notice, but it will have to blow again before more awaken and rise to take a stand pro or con.

The pastors meeting generally held after regular sessions, causing a pastor to run from one meeting to another—sometimes hardly time enough to eat or finish work on (committees) was given adequate time and even a coffee break was added. The local church provided the pastors with coffee and cake. It was appreciated. A "coffee break"

(Continued on page 5)

Our Foreign Mission Fields

Edited by Rev. K. R. Jensen, Viborg, South Dakota

THE TOUCH OF CHRIST TODAY

Among the hills of Galilee,
Through crowded city ways,
The Christ of God went forth to heal
And bless in olden days.
The sinning and the sad of heart
In anxious throngs were massed
To catch the great Physician's eye
And touch Him as He passed.

We have not in our hours of need
His seamless garment pressed,
Nor felt His tender human hand
On us in blessing rest;
Yet till in crowded city streets
The Christ goes forth again,
Whenever touch of human hand
Bespeaks goodwill to men.

Whenever man his brother man
Upholds in helplessness;
Whenever strong and tender clasp
A lonely heart doth bless,
The Christ of God is answering
A stricken world's demands
And leading back a wandering race
By touch of human hands.

GOSPEL NEED IN LATIN AMERICA

By Bishop Julio Manuel Sabanes

Latin America is calling for preachers of the true gospel. To say that Central and South America are not mission fields, that the people are Christians, that for almost five centuries the Roman Catholic Church has been sending its preachers, and that we should not in any way disturb the conscience of the people with new manners of worship or theological tendencies—to say this is to ignore the essence of the religious reality of both Americas.

Religious Conditions

Roman Catholicism in Latin America is very different from that which exists in countries that are predominantly Protestant, even from that of France. In Central and South America, Catholicism is nominal and traditional. It has much of the "miraculous" and superstitious. It has more faith in the number of prayers offered than in the spirit of prayer; more faith in scapularies than in repentant hearts; more faith in holy water than in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. In general terms, it seeks political and economic power to limit the thought and action of the disinherited, but not the power of the Spirit to redeem consciences.

According to statistics compiled by Roman Catholic authorities, it may be said that not even 20 per cent of the inhabitants of Central America are Catholics. An-

other 20 per cent, at the most, merely participate pompous ceremonies with more tendency toward worldly sociability than worship of God. With rare and honorable exceptions, Roman Catholicism does not have the knowledge of the gospel. It lacks convictions and personal experience which define it and root it in life.

I DESIRE TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Yesterday we had a very pleasant but busy Sunday here in Benagaria. Shortly before church service a young man came to see us. He was probably about 20 years old; but that is only a guess, because here no one keeps record.

This man had received instruction for baptism and had felt that he should continue a while longer. But yesterday he came and asked if he could be baptized together with a group readied for the day. Some years ago he had attended one of our village schools where he had been instructed in Bible history and catechism. I realized anew what our poor village schools are able to do for the children, also of non-Christian parents.

"Where have you been working of late?"

"In the neighborhood of Suri. But for several months I have come here for instruction."

"Why do you work so far away?"

"Because we have no rice fields at home, I have to go out to earn my living."

"You have expressed the desire to become a Christian. Why do you want to become a Christian?"

He fixed his eyes on me and answered calmly: "I want to have a part in eternal life."

"But we have thought it better for you to wait a while before you become baptized in order that you may become more certain."

"Yes, Saheb, but I should like to join those who are being baptized today."

To our young pastor he had said, "What if I should die before I become baptized?"

I continued: "I take it that you have begun to pray in the morning and evening, for instance?"

"Yes, I do pray."

"If we are to baptize you today, will you come to us for continued instruction for a while?"

"That I shall gladly do."

His countenance radiated sincerity and a deep earnestness which made me happy and gave me assurance of the right to baptize the young man that day. Then we prayed together. After I had led in prayer I asked if he had a prayer to offer. He began: "Dear God and Father, I am burdened about this baptism today. Will you help me to be true. Hear my short prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen."

That afternoon we went to the village where the young man has four brothers who are not Christians. One of our boys in the sixth grade had asked Nicodemus the Pastor to be baptized that same day. His non-Christian

ents had no objection. "He shall be permitted to make his own decision," they answered. We therefore baptized those two young men and two adult women at Sunday in the pool outside the village in the presence of hundreds of Christians and about an equal number of non-Christians. These all witnessed the confession of their readiness to renounce the devil and to believe in the Triune God.

CONVENTION DAYS

(Continued from page 3)

ance. Big business uses it, office help receives it, and now the church convention. The atomic age is better than the horse and buggy days. Isn't it?

The communion service at St. Paul's was a real inspiration. It was well arranged. There was no hurry. We could relax with leisure and take time to think and pray. What a wonderful moment when we Christians can kneel together in holy communion with our Risen Lord!

The spiritual emphasis was realized at our devotions, evening sessions, and in our conversations. For it is after the meeting, when people talk, that one realizes what God has spoken to them. One of the topics some of the laymen were discussing was stewardship, giving to the work of the Lord. Truly it is good to hear our people talk about finding a

A strange quiet sincerity and festiveness characterized the holy act which these candidates had asked take place out in the open in the presence of all the non-Christians.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

place or a way in which they can serve the Lord better. Often giving has been sidetracked by talking. It is wonderful when we all realize that what we have in time, talent, and money, belongs to the Lord and should be used for His Kingdom.

We enjoyed being at Lynwood. To meet with friends from Maine, Midwest, Canada. It was an inspiration to note how the Lord has blessed the work of our churches in the southland. North Hollywood, Lynwood, Norwalk, and now the new Olivet. Many prayers and toil by our consecrated members and pastors have brought forth fruit.

To those of us who live in California we say thanks for coming to see us. Although it was the southern end of our district, which extends to Portland, Oregon, we hope many of you, as you traveled homeward, found time to look in at our churches in the north. Thanks to the pastor and members of St. Paul's for their splendid hospitality!

NEWS AND NOTES

(Continued from page 2)

us Lutheran Church on June 19th he delivered a very inspiring sermon.

The evening of June 19th, the Emmaus Lutheran congregation had a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. at the social hall in honor of Pastor and Mrs. Tange and family, and a welcome to Pastor and Mrs. Edwin Svendsen, who have moved from Corvallis, Ore., to Eugene. Mr. Edwin Svendsen, son of Pastor and Mrs. H. A. Svendsen, is to be in charge of the Lutheran Student Service on the campus of the University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore. During the evening, speeches were given by the minor guests and there were congratulations given to Pastor H. A. Svendsen on the 40th anniversary of his ordination. We are hoping that God grant Pastor H. A. Svendsen many more years in the Lord's service, so that we can celebrate the Golden Anniversary of his ordination. A film, "All That I Have," was shown.

Pastor Lloyd Neve, missionary to Japan, and family have just visited at Eugene, where Pastor Neve spoke at Emmaus Lutheran Church June 29th, which was a joint service with the Bethesda Lutheran Church. Pastor Neve gave a very enlightening message of the work done by the Lutheran churches in Japan and of the wonderful work and help that the Lutheran Hour Radio Program was

giving both to the individual Japanese and the help that the missionaries received in getting more contacts with the Japanese people. Lutheran missionaries of various synods were very cooperative, so no one interfered with one another's territory, each had a field of their own, their main effort was to bring Christ to the Japanese people. Pastor Neve showed colored picture slides of Japan, they were interesting. Afterwards refreshments were served and a social hour enjoyed.

WHAT NORWEGIAN CONFIRMANDS THINK ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

Oslo, Norway—Only five per cent of the young people confirmed in the Lutheran churches here considered themselves "confessing Christians," but 43 per cent were found having "a positive attitude toward Christianity."

According to the press service of the Norwegian Institute for Inter-Church Relations, this was revealed by a survey initiated by the Oslo Youth Council of Christian Education and carried out by Bjorn Rocksand, a young Norwegian psychologist.

As 88 per cent of all the young people in Oslo are confirmed in the Lutheran State Church of Norway, Mr. Rocksand questioned one-fifth of all the 1953 confirmands regarding their attitude toward Christianity. His findings were recently published in a 140-page book.

According to the report, five per cent of the youth considered themselves "confessing Christians," twelve per cent "wished they were Christians," ten per cent said, "I'm doing so much wrong that I cannot be a Christian."

Furthermore, 58 per cent believed that "the things thought at school (religion) must be right," but confessed that they had not really thought them through; eleven per cent did not consider the things learned at school to be true; and five per cent declared their attitude toward Christianity was negative.

The young people who did not want to answer yes-or-no to the prepared questions were permitted to formulate their own answers, and of these "free answers" about seven per cent were considered positive toward Christianity, Mr. Rocksand's report went on.

Thus he concluded that, on the whole, 42-45 per cent of the young people confirmed in the State Church start out with a positive attitude, 42 per cent with an attitude considered "passive though favorable," and 13 per cent with a negative or critical attitude towards Christianity.

The answer to questions concerning church-going habits of the Oslo confirmands "gave a rather depressing impression," the press service of the Norwegian Institute went on.

THE LUTHER LEAGUE

Homer Larsen, Editor

DISCIPLESHIP

By Rev. Jack Jacobsen

Pastor Larsen's letter came today. He requested an article from the undersigned. As I began to think about what I should write about, the thought came to use a recent text from the Gospel series and to draw some thoughts from it which would be interesting and challenging to young people. The text that was used is taken from Luke 14:25-35.

Many people were following after Jesus. They had heard Him preach, they had seen His miracles and mighty works, and they had seen how He had been willing to help everyone who came to Him. And so Jesus attracted a large and interested following. But then Jesus does something which may seem strange to us; He tells the crowd the cost of total and unconditional discipleship. And after hearing the cost, no doubt many left never to "walk with Him again." The cost which Jesus mentioned was in three main areas of life which are dear to everyone. The first area is human relationship, the second area is our own cross and the third area is to renounce all that we have.

These three principles which Jesus mentions were not just for disciples for His day, but for all generations; it is for us to consider today. When we think of these conditions of discipleship in relation to Confirmation and joining a church, then we see how important Confirmation is.

A Disciple of Jesus must hold Him dearer than mother or dad, sister or brother. In Christian America this may not be a problem to many of us, but in other countries, it can be a problem. In Africa where human relationships are very important, it is hard for a Mohammedan to leave father and mother and to become a Christian. Mother and dad would cast their son out of the home forever. A Jewish person who wants to follow Jesus finds that relatives will be hostile and may ever persecute them. Many Roman Catholics also have this tremendous problem to consider. But you and I may not face this at home, but maybe following Jesus will mean that friends may give us up. Or following Jesus may mean that we will be misunderstood or considered old fashioned. But following Jesus means that regardless

of the cost, we will be true to Him and hold Him as the important Personality in our lives.

A disciple of Jesus will bear his own cross. What does this mean. I believe it means that we will be willing to allow the Spirit of God to crucify the old sinful man within us and to die upon a cross. Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God." The committal of our selfish and proud selves upon the cross is not easy, but it is the only way to true discipleship. And the Holy Spirit will perform that operation so that Christ might be glorified within us.

A disciple of Jesus will renounce all that he has for his Lord. Here is where Jesus touches a "soft spot" which offends many. He offended the rich man who came to him asking, "Master, what do I lack?" Jesus found that he lived a blameless life, he was even religious, but when Jesus told him to sell all that he had and give it to the poor, he went away sorrowfully. Jesus knew that the rich man would have to give up the idol of money to serve him wholly. A disciple serving two things or two masters at the same time is an impossibility. And to you young people, Jesus is saying the same thing today. If you serve Him, then He must be the One in your life who means more to you than a big salary, worldly pleasures, or worldly popularity. A well dressed man came to a church service. He looked successful and truly a man of the world. After the service was over he went to shake hands with the pastor. He left a check with the pastor. The pastor opened the check and saw that it was for \$1000. The pastor called for the man. He said to him, "my friend, it is not every day that a pastor gets a gift for \$1000; tell me, are you a Christian. The business man said, "No, and I can soon tell you why. Many years ago as a young man, I went to a church service. I heard the call of Jesus at that service for my heart and soul. At the same time I had an opportunity to go into a work which would mean making a lot of money

and so I didn't know what to do. As I walked home the call of Christ and the call to make money were tugging in my heart. I decided to settle the matter that night. As I reached the front stairs of my home I stopped for a moment. At the top of the stairs were two pillars. I climbed to the top of the stairs and put a hand on each pillar. The pillar in the right hand represented the call of Christ. The pillar on the left hand represented the call to live for the sake of money and worldly gain. I paused briefly and then I found that I had let go of the right pillar and was holding the left pillar as my life long choice. No matter through the years I have been successful in every way. I am rich and self-sufficient. But, Pastor, I have never heard the call of Christ for gain." And with these words, the rich man walked sadly away.

Christ is calling you, young people, to a life time service. And this service shall be joyous and abundant. Those who gave all to Jesus found that in the end Jesus repaid them more than they could imagine. Abraham was told by God to take Isaac to the mountain and sacrifice him unto Him. Abraham loved this promised son more than himself, and yet when the call to love God more than a son came to him, Abraham was obedient to the test. He found that God gave Isaac back to him and through this sacrifice would come the Jewish people through which Christ would be born. When Paul took the cross and allowed himself to be crucified he found that life was richer, more blessed, and more productive. Because Paul died to himself, God used him to write the many epistles that we have in the New Testament so that today his inspired words are a blessing to us. The little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus, his allowance found that Jesus used that lunch to feed thousands and to feed him also. Job found that even though God took everything, yet because he would remain true, God would again bless him with many things yea, more than he had in the beginning. When God asks for everything, it is His blessed intention not to rob us, but to take the things we give to Him and to return them so that He may bless others through us.

BOOK REVIEW

Challenge and Conformity, by Kenneth Latourette, Harper & Brothers, New York, N.Y., 1955. Cloth, 126 pages, \$1.75. Available at Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr.

This book, though brief in scope and written in delightfully readable style, is a distillation and some conclusions from the earlier monumental works of Latourette the eminent historian of Christianity. He is known to students of Church History particularly for his great book on the **History of Christianity** and his seven volumes on **A History of the Expansion of Christianity**. In this little book, **Challenge and Conformity**, the historian attempts to evaluate Christianity in the world today in terms of such questions as the following: How far is Christianity conforming to the contemporary world? In conformity is Christianity weakening the essence of its Gospel? Is the Church reshaping its conception of the Gospel to release itself from weakening accommodations to earlier environments? How is the contemporary world responding to, and in what ways is it being shaped by Christianity? The author limits his survey to three major areas: The Church in Europe, in the United States, and the non-Occidental areas in which are found the "younger churches," chiefly Asia and Africa. Thus, the reader will perceive, the book is essentially world-wide in scope, despite the author's announced limitations. In the opinion of the reviewer, the insights and wealth of information in the brief volume are amply gratifying, as is the thesis which permeates the book. Latourette states it thus: "In all the multitudinous forms which Christianity has taken on its long pilgrimage in its many cultural settings, its continuing vigor has depended on the degree to which it has been loyal to the Gospel." —C. C. Madsen.

Billy Graham preached a thriller on "repentance" tonight. It was one of the best sermons I've ever heard. But at the end of it a man shouted out of the crowd, "Mr. Graham, why don't you pray for your President Eisenhower to stop this cold war?" Billy never even looked toward the man; he bowed his head for a moment, and then he said, "This time we stopped looking to man. Let us turn our eyes toward God!" Thank you, God, for that divinely inspired answer.—Dale Evans Rogers.

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	Total Received	Children's Homes	School Fund	General Fund	Home Mission	Indian Mission	Utah Mission	Per sion Fund
Previously acknowledged	12896.36	953.49	3604.91	771.00	3626.25	1416.45	83.41	2440.00
Luverne, N. D., Circle 3 of Luverne Luth. Church in memory of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Johansen	3.00	3.00						
McCabe, Mont., Eben-Ezer Luth. Church in memory of William Ryggs, Sr.	3.00							3.00
Hussar, Alberta, Canada, members of Our Savior's Luth. Church in memory of M. M. Jensen, Standard, Alberta	5.00				5.00			
Cedar Falls, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church	350.00	50.00	150.00	50.00	50.00			50.00
Kankakee, Ill., Trinity Luth. Church	150.00	25.00	25.00	50.00				50.00
Los Angeles, Calif., Evening Guild of Olivet Church for equipment	7.00				7.00			
Cedar Falls, Ia., a member of Nazareth Church	35.00							35.00
Chicago, Ill., Sophie and Lawrence Iversen of Golgotha Church, \$10 in memory of Mourids Jensen and \$10 in memory of Maurice Sweet	20.00				10.00			10.00
Viborg, S. D., in memory of Mrs. Eliss E. Mikkaelsen; Mr. and Mrs. John Buck \$2, Mrs. L. P. Jensen \$1, the Anton Olsen family \$1	4.00				3.00			1.00
Alameda, Calif., in memory of A. O. Andersen: Eda Panum, Edna Jorgensen, Hulda Marsh and Earleen Darden	5.00	5.00						
Kaysville, Utah, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lamp	2.00						2.00	
Kaysville, Utah, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lamp for Church Extension and Home Mission	5.00				5.00			
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Trinity Luth. Church	39.71		20.00		9.71			10.00
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Neeah, W.S., Senior Ladies Aid of Our Savior's Luth. Church in memory of Sine Olsen	5.00				5.00			
Rinted, Ia., St. Paul's Luth. Church	200.00	20.00	80.00	25.00	40.00			35.00
Hussar, Alberta, Can., the Junior Mission Band	5.00				5.00			
TOTAL	13743.40	1056.49	3879.91	896.00	3765.96	1416.45	85.41	2643.00

SPECIAL MISSIONS

	Total Received	Japan Mission	South Amer. Mission	Santal Mission	Sudan Mission	Jewish Mission	China Mission	L.W.A.	Gen. For Foreign Mission
Previously acknowledged	24830.39	2952.36	1144.81	774.56	3192.39	25.00	48.80	16642.47	50.00
Edmonton, Alberta, Can., Ansgar Luth. Ladies Aid	50.00				50.00				
Viborg, S. D., Spring Valley Luth. Ladies Aid in memory of Mrs. Elisa E. Michaelsen	5.00							5.00	
Cedar Falls, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church in memory of Niels Olsen	22.00	10.00			12.00				
Racine, Wis., Junior Mission Band of Our Savior's Luth. Church	26.21		13.11	13.10					
Sidney, Mont., Mrs. Karl Hundtoft in memory of Mrs. Peter Andersen and Mrs. Andrew Andersen	5.00					5.00			
Wisconsin District W.M.S. for Rev. Arnfeld Morek's translation work	10.00		10.00						
Wisconsin District W.M.S. for Helen M. Jacobsen's salary June and July	140.00				140.00				
Life Membership for Mrs. B. B. Schou of Nazareth Church, Cedar Falls, Ia.	6.75		6.75						
The Synod's W.M.S. for printing literature for use in the South American Mission	200.00		200.00						
Kevisville, Alberta, Can., Immanuel Luth. Church, an offering	13.50	13.50							
Altura, Colo., the Community Church	30.60	15.30	15.30						
Kaysville, Utah, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lamp	3.00		3.00						
Synod's Women's Missionary Society Convention offering at Lynwood, Calif.	249.09	59.09	100.00	40.00	50.00				
Life Membership for Mrs. Camilla Andersen, Sanger, Calif., member of Pella Church, Del Rey. From her daughters	6.75		6.75						
Life membership for Miss Vivian Henningsen. By Olivet Evening Guild for the La Murda Sudan Training School for Pastors	6.75				6.75				
Hussar, Alberta, Can., the Junior Mission Band	5.00			5.00					
Standard, Alberta, Canada, in memory of M. M. Jensen, father of Pastor Anker Jensen: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Paulsen, Calgary \$2, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Hansen, Calgary \$2, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Christensen, Chancellor \$1, Mr. and Mrs. Anton Myrthu \$5, A. H. Nielsen, \$1, Mr. and Mrs. John Rasmussen, \$5, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Larsen, \$2, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Myrthu \$2, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Larsen \$5, Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Hansen \$2, all of Standard, Mr. and Mrs. Niels Wiesemose, Calgary \$3, Dennis Myrthu, Yellowknife, N.W.T. \$5	35.00				35.00				
Hussar, Alberta, Canada, Our Savior's S. S.	23.80	23.80							
Standard, Alberta, Can., Nazareth Luth. S. S.	45.00								45.00
Fremont Bluffs, Trinity Ladies Aid	22.70		22.70						
Brush, Colo., in memory of Wayne Lorensen: The words Mr. and Mrs. are omitted to save space. Dan Kjeldgaard \$5, Frank Sajeve \$5, Homer Mortensen and Family \$10, Miss Clara Madsen \$5, C. E. Lorensen and Family, Dan Lorensen, Hans and Emil Lorensen, Mrs. Anna Dahl, Chris and Alfred Dahl, Tom Dahl, Mrs. Dahl, Verne Gladwick and Jean \$20.00, Walter Strauch \$1	46.00		46.00						
Brush, Colo., in memory of Wayne Lorensen: John Bencke \$3, Mrs. Herrmann and Betty, Frank Schwanke, Alvin Steffen- sen, Gordon Marble, Herb Strauch, Ed Herrmann, Lawrence Schwanke \$7, the Luther League \$4, Ernest Petersen and Janet, Loren Petersen and family, Lowell Hartwig and family \$25, Carl Lorensen \$5, Ray Wagner \$5, Elmer Strauch \$1	50.00			50.00					
Brush, Colo., in memory of Wayne E. Lorensen: H. C. and Eno- la Kjeldgaard \$2, Harry Madsen \$10, James Lorensen and family \$5, Marilyn Lorensen \$5, Lloyd Lorensen and family, \$5, Jeppe Pedersen \$5, Walter Hartwig \$5, Nels Lackey \$3, L. P. Lorensen \$2, Robt. Schilling \$1, Mrs. Carl Stover \$1, Morris Vedsted \$1, Martha Chandler and Vivian Christensen \$3	48.00				48.00				
TOTAL	25880.54	3074.05	1568.42	882.66	3534.14	30.00	48.80	16647.47	95.00

PLEASE NOTICE: In the July 11th issue of the papers was a \$32.00 gift for Home Mission in memory of James P. Thompson, Berksford, S. D. It should have been in memory of Mrs. James P. Thompson.

Received with thanks.

Blair, Nebr., July 16, 1955.

H. J. Hansen, Treas.

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